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ABSTRACT

Describing the "I-Search" as an approach to research that uses the power of student interests, builds a personal understanding of the research process, and encourages stronger student writing, this manual puts forward the I-Search process as the best tool which exists for connecting students effectively to the research process. The manual aims to "spread the word" about the I-Search and how to teach it. The manual can serve as a guide through the steps that have been developed in adapting the process (originally elaborated for freshman composition students) to the K-12 level. Noting that many of the steps in this I-Search adaptation derive from a qualitative research study set up to investigate the results of a high school I-Search unit, the manual reports that this research evidenced significant improvement in student research and writing abilities. Following a preface, chapters in the manual are, as follows: (1) Writing/Research Connections; (2) What Is the I-Search Paper?; (3) Starting the Process; (4) Narrowing the Topic; (5) Using Information; (6) Presentation and Assessment of Process and Product; (7) I-Search Management Strategies; (8) Inservice Training; (9) Connections to Information Literacy; and (10) Summary. Appendixes include material on collaboration through conferencing; reading textbooks and articles using SQ3R; and sample student papers. An annotated bibliography concludes the manual. (NKA)

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